

1 **REMARKS**

2 Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the
3 subject application. Claims 1-8 are pending, of which claims 2 and 4 have been
4 amended.

5
6 **Allowable Subject Matter**

7 Claims 2 and 4 are indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent
8 form. Applicant appreciates the indication of allowability. Appropriate
9 amendments to claims 2 and 4 have been provided herein. Claim 2 is amended to
10 include the elements of claim 1, and claim 4 is amended to include the elements of
11 claim 3. The amendments to claims are purely of form (i.e., dependent format to
12 independent format), and are not to overcome prior art or any other objections.

13 Accordingly, claims 2 and 4 are in condition for allowance and Applicant
14 respectfully requests that the objection to claims 2 and 4 be withdrawn.

15
16 **35 U.S.C. §103**

17 Claims 1, 3, and 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for obviousness
18 over U.S. Patent No. 5,596,347 to McLaughlin et al. (hereinafter, "McLaughlin").
19 Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

20 McLaughlin describes a system to calibrate and control a display screen
21 with user selectable controls displayed on the display screen. The system enables
22 a user to lock in a selected set of display parameters so that the parameters can not
23 be easily, or inadvertently, changed (col. 7, lines 31-36). Display parameters are
24 selected with configuration controls and locked in when activating locking
25 software (col. 7, lines 37-65). McLaughlin also describes that the locking

1 software periodically polls the current status of the display and corrects any
2 display parameter having a value that differs from a desired value (col. 8, lines
3 10-21).

4 The present Application describes a data structure that includes a provision
5 for aggregating a group of controls, referred to as a control group, and for defining
6 the control group as active or inactive (*Specification* p.10, lines 16-22). A control
7 group identifier designates which control group a particular control belongs to
8 when each particular control is identified in the data structure (*Specification* p.16,
9 lines 7-9). This provides a convenient method to activate or deactivate a group of
10 the controls registered in the data structure (*Specification* p.19, lines 6-16).

11 The Examiner admits that McLaughlin does not disclose directing the
12 activation of controls of a control group by storing an active value in a single
13 status indicator, but then infers that McLaughlin represents a control group with a
14 single status indicator, and directs the activation of the controls of the control
15 group (*Office Action* p.3). However, McLaughlin does not teach or suggest that
16 controls of a control group are activated by storing an active value in a single
17 status indicator. The Office also recognizes that McLaughlin does not disclose
18 either a control grouping identifier contained within memory, the identifier having
19 an active state and an inactive state, or that the control grouping identifier
20 represents controls of a control grouping (*Office Action* p.4). Furthermore, the
21 Office has cited no other references to overcome the deficiencies of McLaughlin.

22
23 **Claim 1** recites a method of “identifying a control group, the control group
24 being comprised of at least two controls associated in a data structure” and
25 “representing the control group with a single status indicator in the data structure”.

1 McLaughlin makes no reference to representing a control group with a
2 single status indicator in a data structure. McLaughlin does not teach or suggest
3 any correlation between the configuration controls, or icons, and a memory or
4 storage device, other than to indicate that parameter and calibration data is stored
5 as separately accessible files (col. 14).

6 Claim 1 also recites “directing the activation of the controls of the control
7 group by storing an active value in the single status indicator.” McLaughlin also
8 does not direct the activation of controls of a control group by storing an active
9 value in a single status indicator, as recited in claim 1.

10 The Office argues that McLaughlin teaches associating a group of controls
11 and polling the display status of the display to identify user commands. Based on
12 this, the Office further argues that to poll the display status implies the
13 activation/deactivation of controls, as a group or individually (*Office Action* p.3).
14 Applicant disagrees with this suggestion of obviousness.

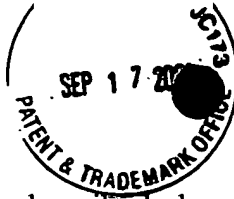
15 McLaughlin describes selecting a configuration control (48) to activate
16 controls (49) and (50) (Fig. 4; col. 7, lines 39-42). The Office argues that these
17 controls are associated in a data structure, represented with a single status
18 indicator, and activated as a control group (*Office Action* p.3). Applicant disagrees
19 with this inference of McLaughlin. It is possible that software periodically polls to
20 determine the activation status of configuration control (48), and upon determining
21 that configuration control (48) has been selected, sequentially activates controls
22 (49) and (50). Absent any such explanation, however, it should not be inferred by
23 the Office as to how controls (49) and (50) might be activated in response to
24 configuration control (48) being selected.

1 McLaughlin says nothing about how the configuration controls might be
2 associated in a data structure. Furthermore, McLaughlin describes that polling the
3 display status is for the purpose of correcting any display parameter or setting
4 having a value that differs from a desired value (col. 8, lines 10-21). Any
5 activation or deactivation of the controls is not described as being related to
6 polling the display status, as the Office suggests, and there is no indication in
7 McLaughlin, implied or otherwise, supporting a conclusion that it is obvious how
8 the controls might be stored or activated.

9 Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over McLaughlin and the Office's
10 suggestions of obviousness. Applicant respectfully requests that the §103
11 rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

12 **Claim 3** recites an apparatus for activating and deactivating a control
13 grouping comprising "a control grouping identifier contained within the memory,
14 wherein the control grouping identifier has an active state and an inactive state and
15 wherein the control grouping identifier represents the controls of the control
16 grouping." The Office recognizes that McLaughlin does not disclose either a
17 control grouping identifier contained within the memory, the identifier having an
18 active state and an inactive state, or that the control grouping identifier represents
19 the controls of the control grouping (*Office Action* p.4). The Office has cited no
20 other references to overcome the deficiencies of McLaughlin.

21 The Office suggests, however, that it would have been obvious to use
22 McLaughlin because he discloses polling the display status to effect user
23 commands to activate a group of controls (*Office Action* p.4). Applicant
24 respectfully disagrees with this suggestion of obviousness, and that McLaughlin
25 discloses activating a group of controls together.



As described above in the response to the rejection of claim 1, polling the display status is for the purpose of correcting any display parameter having a value that differs from a desired value (col. 8, lines 10-21). McLaughlin further describes that control activation can be accomplished by activating / deactivating the locking software (col. 7, lines 49-60). Any activation or deactivation of a control is not related to polling the display status.

McLaughlin does not teach "a control grouping identifier contained within memory" that "represents the controls of the control grouping", as recited in claim 3. No other references have been cited to remedy these deficiencies of McLaughlin that the Office itself has recognized. Accordingly, claim 3 is allowable over McLaughlin, and the §103 rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 5-7 are allowable by virtue of their dependency upon claim 1.

Claim 8 is allowable by virtue of its dependency upon claim 3.

Conclusion

Pending claims 1-8 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt issuance of the subject application. If any issues remain that prevent issuance of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned attorney before issuing a subsequent Action.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Version of amended claims with markings to show changes made

2. (Twice Amended) [The method of claim 1 wherein] In a computer system having a video display device, the video display device having a screen and the computer system [further includes] including a cursor which is displayed on the screen [of the video display device], [the] a method [further] comprising:

- providing a plurality of controls on the screen of the video display device;
- identifying a control group, the control group being comprised of at least two controls associated in a data structure;
- representing the control group with a single status indicator in the data structure;
- directing the activation of the controls of the control group by storing an active value in the single status indicator;
- identifying a location on the screen that the cursor points to; and
- for each control of the control group, identifying a control position, the control position defining a location on the screen for the activated control, determining a control distance, the control distance defining a control connecting path which connects the identified location with the control position, calculating a control angle, the control angle being an angle formed between the control connecting path and a last direction of cursor movement path, and calculating a weighted distance.

1 4. (Amended) [The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the control
2 grouping identifier] An apparatus for activating and deactivating a control
3 grouping, the control grouping being comprised of at least two controls and being
4 displayed on a screen of a video display device of a computer system, the
5 apparatus including:

6 a memory formed within the computer system; and
7 a control grouping identifier contained within the memory, wherein the control
8 grouping identifier has an active state and an inactive state and wherein the control
9 grouping identifier is a bit of a control word that represents the controls of the
10 control grouping.